IN THE CLAIMS

Please reconsider the claims as follows:

1. (previously presented) Method for preprocessing content for a stream caching server in an interactive information distribution system, said method comprising:

retrieving content in a first subscriber terminal;

transcoding said retrieved content into a plurality of MPEG packets;

uploading said transcoded content to a http server coupled to an access network;

encapsulating said transcoded content in accordance to an Internet Protocol (IP) format supported by said stream caching server; and

transmitting said encapsulated content for storage in said stream caching server.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

downloading an applet to said first subscriber terminal from a http server; and

executing said applet to initiate said retrieving, said transcoding and said uploading.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

creating metadata for said content, where said metadata comprises indexing information used by said stream caching server in response to a command provided by a user viewing said content at a second subscriber terminal; and

uploading said metadata with said content.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein said metadata is encapsulated with said transcoded content in said IP format.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein said command comprises at least one of fast forward (FF), rewind (REW), pause, stop, bookmark, and return to place.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 where said retrieved content in said first subscriber terminal is one of an AVI file, a MPEG-1 file and a moving JPEG file.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of MPEG packets is contained in a payload of an IP packet.

8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein said plurality of MPEG packets is contained in a payload of a Realtime Transfer Protocol (RTP) packet contained in a payload of an IP packet.

9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of MPEG packets comprises a plurality of one of a MPEG-2 packet and a MPEG-4 packet.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 said IP formatted content is retrieved from said streaming cache server in response to a request for content from a second subscriber terminal, and streamed via a distribution network and said access network to said second subscriber terminal.

11. (original) The method of claim 1 said IP formatted content is retrieved from said streaming cache server in response to a request for content from another stream cache server, and streamed to from said caching server to that other caching server.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said retrieving of IP formatted content and a streaming are conditioned upon a user of a second subscriber terminal providing a correct password to a http server as configured by a user of said first subscriber terminal.

13. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said access network comprises one of a wide area network, a local area network, a cable network, a carrier network, a satellite network and a wireless terrestrial network.

14. (original) A system for preprocessing content for a stream caching server in an interactive information distribution system, said system comprising:

a first subscriber terminal for receiving content, transcoding said content into a plurality of MPEG packets, and uploading said transcoded content to an access network; and

a digital link for encapsulating said transcoded content in accordance to an Internet Protocol (IP) supported by said stream caching server, and transmitting said encapsulated content to said stream caching server.

15. (original) The system of claim 14 further comprising:

a http server, coupled to said access network, for providing an applet to said first terminal and for providing a user interface for a user of said first subscriber terminal.

16. (original) The system of claim 15 wherein said first subscriber terminal downloads an applet from said http server, and executes said applet to initiate said receiving, transcoding and uploading.

17. (original) The system of claim 14 wherein said first terminal creates metadata for said content upon executing said applet, where said metadata comprises indexing information used by said caching stream server in response to a command provided by a user viewing said content at a second subscriber terminal.

18. (original) The system of claim 17 wherein said metadata is encapsulated with said IP content in said IP format.

19. (original) The system of claim 17 wherein said command comprises at least one of fast forward (FF), rewind (REW), pause, stop, bookmark, and return to place.

20. (original) The system of claim 14 wherein said plurality of MPEG packets is contained in a payload of an IP packet.

21. (original) The system of claim 20 wherein said plurality of MPEG packets is contained in a payload of a Realtime Transfer Protocol (RTP) packet contained in a payload of an IP packet.

22. (original) The system of claim 14 wherein said plurality of MPEG packets comprises a plurality of one of a MPEG-2 packet and a MPEG-4 packet.

23. (original) The system of claim 15 further comprising:

a second subscriber terminal for sending a request for content to said http server and for receiving said content retrieved from said stream caching server and streamed via a distribution network and said access network.

24. (original) The system of claim 14 further comprising:

a remote stream caching server for streaming said content to said stream caching server in response to content from said stream caching server.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein said retrieval of IP formatted content and a streaming are conditioned upon a user of a second subscriber terminal providing a correct password to a http sever as configured by a user of said first subscriber terminal.

26. (original) The system of claim 14 wherein said access network comprises one of a wide area network, a local area network, a cable network, a carrier network, a satellite network, and a terrestrial wireless network.

27. (previously presented) A method for use in a client server system, comprising:

loading, into a client, content local to said client;

loading into said client as necessary, a transcoding application from a server of said server system, said transcoding application operative to transcode or encode content into a desired player format;

transcoding said loaded content into said desired player format;

encapsulating said transcoded content into a desired transport format; and

uploading said encapsulated content to said server system.

28. (original) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of:

uploading to said server access rights associated with said encapsulated data.

29. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein said access rights comprise at least one of a password protection scheme, a time-to-view parameter, a time-to-use parameter, a defined use population and a defined geographic population.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said step of encapsulating comprises the steps of:

first encapsulating said transcoded content according to a transport format adapted to a predefined access network; and

further encapsulating said transport formatted content within a realtime protocol (RTP) packet adapted to an internet protocol (IP) network.